

36688 to 36715—Continued

Myrciaria jaboticaba Berg, which, according to Barbosa Rodrigues, is commonly known as *jaboticaba de Sao Paulo*. Its foliage is much larger than the common *jaboticaba* which grows around Rio de Janeiro. *Murta* is said to be a large-fruited variety, but we have seen only young plants of it. *Corôa* we saw in fruit at a local nursery, and it seems to be the common local variety, which is described farther on. *Branca* (white) is a little-known, small-fruited variety.

"The fruits seen in the market here vary greatly in size, but otherwise seem to be about alike. A good specimen is an inch and a half in diameter, round or nearly so, and dark maroon-purple in color, greatly resembling in appearance some of the grapes of the *rotundifolia* type. This resemblance extends to the internal characteristics of the fruit as well, the texture of the flesh, its color and flavor, as well as the seeds, suggesting a grape more than any other temperate fruit. The skin is thick and very tough; it is broken by squeezing the fruit with the thumb and finger, when the pulp slides out into the mouth and the skin is discarded. The pulp is translucent, very juicy, and of a subacid, pleasant flavor, with a rather peculiar tang, which one is not sure to like at first, but which is very agreeable as soon as one becomes accustomed to it. The seeds, one to four in number, are rather large and adhere closely to the pulp; the boys here seem to swallow them, but this may not be a very desirable proceeding from a physiological standpoint. The Brazilians seem almost passionately fond of this fruit, especially the children, who spend hours at a time under the trees hunting for the ripe fruits and then working them off with a long pole if they are where they can not be reached.

"Following is a pomological description of the fruit as purchased in the Rio de Janeiro market and as seen growing in gardens around the city: General form slightly oblate to very broadly pyriform, with a majority of the specimens round or very nearly so; cross section regularly round; length three-fourths to 1½ inches, breadth three-fourths to 1½ inches; base of fruit in some cases slightly extended, in others slightly flattened; apex usually slightly flattened, with a small disk and vestiges of the four sepals; surface smooth, somewhat glossy to very glossy, color purplish maroon to maroon-purple when fully ripe; skin one-sixteenth inch thick, tough and leathery, and not easily broken, but separating readily from the flesh, which comes out in a body when the skin is broken; flesh translucent, whitish, jellylike in consistency, full of juice; flavor vinous, with a peculiar tang of its own; seeds normally four, but one to three sometimes abortive. Three seems to be the commonest number, but two is also common, and a few have been seen with five. Shape of seed oval to almost round, flattened laterally, three-eighths to one-half inch long, one-eighth inch thick; seed coats very thin. Practically no cultivation is given the trees we have seen, and we have heard of no other way of propagating them than by seed."

36703. *AMYGDALUS PERSICA* L.

Peach.

(*Prunus persica* Stokes.)

"(No. 6a. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. October 24, 1913.) One hundred and eighty seeds from small, inferior, but somewhat peculiar peaches purchased in the market. This peach is of a rather dirty green color, the flesh white, sometimes slightly tinged with red at the stone. The quality is poor, and there is little juice. Ninety per cent or more were infested with maggots. We have not seen the trees upon which peaches of this kind grow. They may be used for stocks or possibly for breeding."

36704. *SOLANUM ACULEATISSIMUM* Jacquin.

"(No. 8a. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. October 23, 1913.) Five fruits secured along the roadside of the Tijuca Drive. They are from 1 inch to 1½ inches in